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**AUG 27 2013**

**PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION**

August 27, 2013

David L. Armstrong, Chairman  
Kentucky Public Service Commission

James W. Gardner, Vice Chairman  
Kentucky Public Service Commission

Linda Breathitt, Commissioner  
Kentucky Public Service Commission  
211 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the EcoPower Generation project, whose case is currently before the Public Service Commission. The PSC is attached to the Energy and Environment Cabinet only for administrative matters, and therefore I write these comments simply to highlight the broad energy security, greenhouse gas reduction, and economic development benefits of projects of this type, not as someone who has direct involvement in case proceedings and review.

The proposed EcoPower Generation project is just the type of activity envisioned in the state's comprehensive energy plan, "Intelligent Energy Choices for Kentucky's Future," which is the guiding policy framework for the Energy and Environment Cabinet. Recognizing that Kentucky has significant energy challenges in a carbon-constrained world, the energy plan calls for a true all-of-the above energy portfolio—especially a portfolio that utilizes Kentucky's own resources. President Barack Obama's announcement of his climate agenda earlier this summer adds urgency to our state's need for electricity diversification. A carbon-constrained world, in other words, is now not a matter of if or when—it is upon us and we have to proceed accordingly.

David L. Armstrong, Chairman  
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In the renewable arena, biomass power represents our state's best opportunity to generate electricity. Analyses conducted through the Governor's Biomass and Biofuels task force and through the Climate Action Plan Council demonstrate that Kentucky's biomass potential for energy production is significant, and that these resources can be utilized sustainably. These analyses also confirmed that there are important job creation and economic development benefits of using the state's biomass resources. More importantly, utilizing biomass for energy production creates jobs in rural areas that are most in need. As eastern Kentucky communities continue to experience the greatest burden as a result of our nation's shift away from coal, the ability to create jobs in the region takes on even more importance.

While one project will not transform the energy sector, it is an important step in the direction we need to be headed to secure our energy future. We know that a diversified energy portfolio is the only way to hedge against escalating electricity prices. A diversified portfolio will also be the only way we can achieve compliance with a federal greenhouse gas regulatory scheme.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,



Leonard K. Peters  
Secretary